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Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. In resolution 46/212 the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the progress being made to address the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries 1/ and requested him to prepare another report for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

2. In paragraph 12, the same resolution requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of governmental experts from developing land-locked and transit developing countries along with representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions to review and propose appropriate concrete action to address the problems of land-locked developing countries. Such a meeting was held under the auspices of UNCTAD from 17 to 19 May 1993 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting adopted agreed conclusions and recommendations which appear in annex I to the report of the meeting which is before the Board for its consideration (TD/B/40(1)2-TD/B/LDC/AC.14).

1/ A/46/496 and Add.1.

GE.93-52436 (E)

3. The Board might wish to endorse the priority areas for transit cooperation outlined in the report where action must be taken. With regard to the recommended modalities to improve the transit systems, the Board might wish to request the UNCTAD secretariat, in close collaboration with the regional economic commissions, to hold consultations with the developing land-locked countries and their transit neighbours at both national and subregional level, with a view to assisting them in implementing the various recommendations contained in the report.

4. In paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 46/212, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is invited to carry out, within the overall level of resources for the biennium 1992-1993, specific studies, inter alia, bearing in mind the need to address the concerns of transit developing countries, and to report on the results of the studies to the Trade and Development Board and the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The results of these studies are outlined in TD/B/40(1)/4. The Board might wish to consider the results of these studies and forward its conclusions to the General Assembly. With regard to the follow-up to these studies, the Board might wish to note that, in paragraph 11, the General Assembly resolution invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene subregional symposiums/workshops of experts of land-locked and transit developing countries, on the basis of these studies.

5. In paragraph 9 of the resolution the General Assembly requested UNCTAD to keep under constant review the evolution of transport transit infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, monitor the implementation of agreed measures, collaborate on all relevant initiatives, including those of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and serve as a focal point for cross-regional issues of interest to land-locked developing countries. In order to undertake the above review, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has sent a note verbale to member States, international and intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental bodies, requesting them to provide information on the actions being taken with regard to measures called for in the resolution. The replies received so far and the recent work of UNCTAD on behalf of the land-locked countries are summarized in TD/B/40(1)/5, which is also before the Board for consideration. Taking into account the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, the Board might wish to urge the international community to focus its actions for improving the transit systems on the recommended priority areas and to adopt the modalities of action agreed upon.